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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspectors

FOR THE

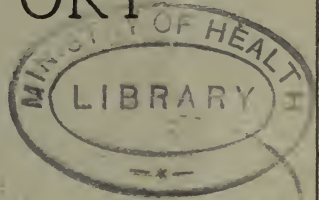
URBAN DISTRICT OF TREDEGAR

For the Year 1925

TREDEGAR :

E. SWARBRICK, 31, Castle Street.

1926.



Supplied *1925*
THE TREDEGAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TREDEGAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I have pleasure in submitting, for your consideration the following supplementary report for the above year:-

Schools:- There are ten elementary and one higher grade schools in your district. These schools are all under the entire control of the Monmouthshire County Council. Periodical visits are paid, by your officials, to each of these, and when any cause of complaint is discovered the attention of the County officials is at once directed to same, and the necessary steps taken by them to remedy any defects that may exist. The schools are generally well kept. Each school is well provided with sanitary accommodation. Well ventilated and an ample supply of water.

SMOKE

NUISANCES:- It has not been deemed necessary to take any action regarding nuisances caused by smoke, as this district is remarkably free from any cause of complaint in this respect.

POOR LAW

RELIEF:- The following are the particulars, as supplied by the Bedwellty Union Authorities:-

HALF YEAR ENDING

AMOUNT OF OUT-RELIEF.

	£
Sept. 1921	25,997
March 1922	7,925
Sept. 1922	8,109
March 1923	6,398
Sept. 1923	6,975
March 1924	6,815
Sept. 1924	6,513
March 1925	6,829
Sept. 1925	7,925
March 1926	10,054

The/

The Poor Law Hospital and Infirmary for the whole of the Parish of Bedwellty is situated in this district, and I believe is very extensively utilized, but I have no means of ascertaining what proportion of same your district is in receipt of.

(Sd) Edwin T.H.Davies.
Medical Officer of Health,
Tredegar Urban District.

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THE GROVE,

TREDEGAR,

April 30th, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Tredegar.

GENTLEMEN,

I have very much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1925. It has again been a highly satisfactory year as may be seen from the vital statistics.

It will be noted that the birth rate is practically the same as for 1924, but is still well above the average for the Country and above the average for the County.

The death rate is slightly increased but is below the average for the Country.

The infantile mortality rate is slightly higher and this is due to an epidemic of measles. It is however less than the average rate for the County.

I think you will agree with me that this is a very satisfactory state of affairs when one has to consider the appalling housing conditions in certain parts of the district, and also the climate of your district.

Brief Review of Infectious Diseases.

Enteric Fever.—One mild case only was notified and this case recovered at your Isolation Hospital. This is very satisfactory when we remember that this disease used to be endemic in this area.

Scarlet Fever.—There is a slight increase in the incidence of this disease, the number of notifications being 24 as compared with 9 for 1924, but 55 for 1923. The type of disease is still mild, no deaths occurring from it.

Measles.—An epidemic of measles occurred during the year. Although the type of the disease was not severe it was responsible for 10 deaths and this accounts for the slight increase in the death rate and infant mortality rate.

Diphtheria.—There has been a slight decrease in the incidence of this disease. 22 cases were notified, with only one death. For a disease of this seriousness the small mortality is highly satisfactory.

Whooping Cough.—This disease was widespread and of a severe nature and was responsible for 5 deaths.

Influenza.—The district was not visited by a severe type of this disease.

Puerperal Fever.—There were 3 notifications but there were no deaths. It speaks well for the maternity nursing of the district that there was no fatal case for the year. To fully appreciate the good result one has only to consider the wretched and miserable housing conditions in which some of the mothers have to be nursed.

Tuberculosis.—The preventive side of this disease is now receiving increased attention from the Welsh Board of Health. As the incidence of this disease is very important a comparison with previous years will be helpful.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—

Year.	No. of Notifications.	Deaths.
1925	58	17
1924	52	21
1922	63	13
1920	32	16
1918	124	21

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—

Year.	No. of Notifications.	Deaths.
1925	33	7
1924	9	12
1922	31	6
1920	26	6
1919	33	17
1918	46	5

Infantile Mortality.—Rate of 80.0 per 1000 births. This is satisfactory for a district of this kind where the incidence of respiratory diseases in children is very high owing to our very cold winters.

Isolation Hospital.—During the year 5 cases of diphtheria were admitted and 4 were discharged cured. Also one case of suspected enteric fever which was discharged cured.

Industrial Diseases.—The following are the diseases certified for the district during the year :—

Miners' Nystagmus	...	43
Beat Knee	...	10
Beat Hand	...	4
Beat Elbow	...	2
Teno Synovitis	...	1

Vital Statistics of the District.

(See Tables.)

Birth Rate.—23.69 per 1000 per annum. (1924, 23.73; 1923, 25.77.)

Death Rate.—11.03 per 1000 per annum. (1924, 10.12; 1923, 10.75.)

Infantile Mortality Rate.—80.0 per 1000 births. (1924, 73.4; 1923, 70.11.)

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the district.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

1. *General.*—This is provided by the nurses attached to the Tredegar Nurses' Home (the Central Home of the Monmouthshire Nursing Association). The Tredegar Workmen's Medical Aid Society contribute to the Nurses' Home and so free nursing and massage is provided for its members who amount to over 85 per cent. of the population.
2. *Infectious.*—No nursing is provided at the Homes.
3. *Midwives.*—The Tredegar Nurses' Home have maternity nurses and is also a training school for pupil midwives. Apart from the nurses attached to the Home there are 7 maternity nurses practising in the district.

LIST OF CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1. *Infant Welfare and Maternity Centre*.—Held at the English Wesleyan Schoolroom, every Tuesday morning. Provided by and controlled by the County Council.
2. *School Clinics*.—(a) Dental Clinic }
(b) Eye Clinic } Central Surgery.
3. *Tuberculosis*.—The Tuberculosis Physicians attend once a week at Central Surgery.
4. *Venereal Disease*.—No local provisions for treatment. All cases sent to Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

HOSPITALS.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>Isolation Hospital</i> .—20 beds. | Controlled by local Council. |
| 2. | <i>Tredegar Hospital</i> .—50 beds | For accident and surgical cases |
| 3. | <i>Bedwellty Union Infirmary</i> . | |

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

1. *For Infectious Cases.*—Horse drawn ambulance the property of the Council.
2. *For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.*—Motor ambulance of the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company, Limited.

LABORATORY WORK.

No local provision for same. Work performed at County Council Laboratory. Council provides diphtheria antitoxin only.

Tredeggar Infant Welfare Centre.

This centre is now well established and popular and is doing a vast amount of good, both in advising mothers on the proper feeding of their infants and in the detection of ailments in their incipient stage. (For further particulars see County Council Report on Child Welfare).

The abnormally high incidence of umbilical hernia is a matter which calls for some attention.

Natural and Social Condition of District.

Tredeggar was constituted a Local Government District by an Order of the Local Government Board, dated 18th June, 1874.

The district consists of the civil parishes of Tredeggar in the County of Monmouth and Dukestown in the County of Brecon.

Nearly the whole of the Urban Area lies in the Sirhowy Valley. It runs almost due North and South, its length is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles and its width is rather more than two miles in the extreme North and four furlongs in the extreme South. The Southerly portion is bounded by hills on the East and West, ranging from 1,200 to 1,300 feet above datum line; the hills on the North rise to a height of from 1,500 to 1,800 feet.

The elevation above sea level between the two extreme points of the district are as follows :—

Bedwellty Pits Village	...	...	861 feet.
Ty Trist Collieries	...	...	950 "
Ty Bryn	...	...	1107 "
The Circle	...	...	1027 "
Barclays Bank	...	...	1056 "
The Willows, Church Street	...	...	1016 "
Ash Vale Hospital	...	...	1069 "
Shon Sheffrey's Spring	...	...	1200 "
Trevil Quarries	...	...	1350 "

The area of the district is 8118 acres (Tredeggar 4356 acres and Dukestown 3762 acres).

	£	s.	d.
Rateable value of Tredeggar Parish	...	93,504	0 0
„ „ Dukestown „	...	6,402	0 0

One Penny produces :—

Tredeggar Parish	...	375	0 0
Dukestown „	...	20	0 0

For Poor Law purposes the Parish of Tredeggar is in the Bedwellty Union and the Parish of Dukestown is in the Crickhowell Union.

Population, census 1921	...	..	25,106
„ estimated 1922	...	...	26,070
„ „ 1923	...	...	26,230
„ „ 1924 and 1925	...	...	26,380
No. of Inhabited Houses	...	...	4,832
No of families or separate occupiers (estimated)			5,850
Average population per dwelling	..	...	5.46

Water Supply.

The provisions of the Tredegar Urban District Council Act of 1920 have enabled the Council to provide an abundant supply of excellent quality. The former inadequate storage of 15,500,000 gallons has now been increased to 65,500,000 gallons.

The main supply of the district comes from what is called Shon Sheffrey's Spring, which rises in the hilly moorlands of the Parish of Dukestown and is situated about two miles from the centre of the town. The surplus from this spring passes into a storage reservoir of 50,000,000 gallons capacity and the supply is not only sufficient for the needs of this district but also enables the Council to meet the need of a considerable portion of the population of the areas of the Badwellty Urban District Council and of the Abertillery and District Water Board.

This supply is filtered by means of two batteries of modern mechanical filters erected in 1922. The plant, consisting of 10 8ft. diameter pressure filters with the necessary lime, alumina, and chlorine apparatus, is capable of treating $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions gallons of water per diem, and is under guarantee to deliver the "water, both chemically and bacteriologically, absolutely suitable for domestic purposes." The filtered water is of a high degree of purity as will be seen from the last report as follows:—

Register No. 1861.

Report sent 24th May, 1924.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

37, Russell Square,

London, W.C. 1

24th March, 1924.

Report from the Bacteriological Laboratories.

Examination of a Sample of Water.

Name of sender : D. Walter Davies, Tredegar Urban District Council.

Date received : 20/5/24.

Particulars on label : Test Tap Outlet of No. 1 Battery, Nantybwlch Filters.

The sample was packed in ice.

Quantitative Enumeration of Bacteria.

On gelatine plates, kept for 4 days at 22 C. 12 colonies per 1 c.c. developed : of these 3 or 25 per cent. liquefied gelatine.

On agar plates, kept for 24 hours at 37 C. 3 colonies per 1 c.c. developed.

Examination for Special Bacteria.

B. Coli absent in 100 c.c.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

No exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes.

WILLIAM R. SMITH, Knt.,

M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., Ed.

Another source of supply is the Georgetown works, situated on the Eastern side of the valley, consisting of the Ton-y-fedw spring, a storage reservoir holding 14,000,000 gallons, a service reservoir holding 1,500,000 gallons, and two sand beds each with a filtering area of 4,500 square feet.

This supply also is of good quality and the last examination gave results as follows :—

Report from the Bacteriological Laboratories.

Examination of a Sample of Water.

Name of sender : D. Walter Davies, Tredegar Urban District Council.

Date received : 20/5/24.

Particulars on label : House Tap at "Redesdale," Tredegar.

The sample was packed in ice.

Quantative Enumeration of Bacteria.

On gelatine plates, kept for 4 days at 22 C. 24 colonies per 1 c.c. developed : of these 8 or 33 per cent. liquefied gelatine.

On agar plates, kept for 24 hours at 37 C. 5 colonies per 1 c.c. developed.

Examination for Special Bacteria.

B. Coli absent in 100 c.c

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

No exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes.

WILLIAM R. SMITH, Knt.,

M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S., Ed.

The villages of Trevil and Tafarnaubach and a few outlying houses are so situated that they cannot be supplied from either of the foregoing sources by gravitation. These places have therefore to be supplied from local springs and in no case is the supply entirely satisfactory. It is therefore highly desirable that steps should be taken to provide an ample and pure supply of water for these places. With this object in view a scheme, consisting of pumping plant and high-level service reservoir, was approved by the Council during last year but afterwards postponed for the time being on the ground of cost.

The supply to Tafarnaubach is however being improved, a tender having been accepted, subject to the Council being able to acquire the necessary land, for the erection of a ferro-concrete storage tank of 10,000 gallons capacity. This tank will be of great benefit under the existing system of supply and will eventually form part of the High Level Pumping Scheme already referred to.

The Sirhowy and Dukestown districts are supplied with water by the Ebbw Vale Urban District Council. The number of houses thus supplied is approximately 800. The supply is ample and of fair quality. The water being of a plumbo-solvent nature iron service pipes have to be used and lead pipes are strictly forbidden.

Rainfall.

The rainfall is that recorded at "Redesdale" by Mr. D. Walter Davies, at an elevation of 963 feet above ordnance datum.

1925.	inches.	1925	inches.
January	... 6'47	July	... 2'48
February	... 10'31	August	... 6'30
March	... 1'35	September	... 4'26
April	... 4'62	October	... 6'69
May	... 6'33	November	... 3'24
June	... '01	December	... 4'96
		<hr/>	
		57'02	

There were 201 rain days and the greatest fall recorded was 1'76 on January 1st.

Previous yearly records taken at the same place are:—

1924	... 65'67	1918	... 50'44
1923	... 60'73	1917	... 41'95
1922	... 45'82	1916	... 47'01
1921	... 27'49	1915	... 44'17
1920	... 51'70	1914	... 56'87
1919	... 40'80	1913	... 61'09

showing an average fall of 49'48 inches.

The average rainfall for the 26 years (1881-1907) recorded at "The Willows" by the late Dr. G. A. Brown, at an elevation of 1,024 feet above ordnance datum, was 58'70 inches.

Rivers and Streams.

The river Howy is the only river within the district and previous to the construction of the Western Valleys Sewers the whole of the sewage of the valley was discharged into it, thus converting the river, at certain times of the year, into a serious menace to the health of the district. This, happily, has now been changed and the amount of objectionable matter discharged into the river has been reduced almost to a minimum. There are no polluted streams in the district.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Excellent progress has been made during the year in the work of diverting the existing housedrains from the old to the new system of drainage. No less than 242 housedrains and waterclosets have been overhauled and connected to the new sewers. This means that the quantity of offensive matter entering the Sirhowy river has been very materially reduced and thus making the necessary advancement towards securing the full benefit of the money spent in the construction of the system of subsidiary sewers which convey the sewage of this district into the Western Valleys main sewers which discharge into the Bristol Channel at a point between Newport and Cardiff. It is to be hoped that in the near future all the sewage matter of the district will be treated in the same manner.

Closet Accommodation.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Number of Closets with fixed receptacles-	27	27	27	25	17
,, ,, movable ,, -	22	22	22	22	12
Number of Waterclosets, flush cisterns-	3041	3122	3155	3167	3270
,, ,, hand flushed -	1129	1153	1150	1148	1140
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS - -	4219	4324	4354	4362	4439
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.

The work of scavenging house and trade refuse has, during the year, been given every attention and notwithstanding the difficulties arising from bad weather conditions all parts of the district have been attended to as expeditiously as possible. Daily collections of refuse are made in all parts of the district, except in a few of the most rural parts where every care is

taken that dangerous accumulations of refuse do not exist. The disposal of the refuse, after collections, is as usual our greatest trouble. The fact that so much of this offensive matter has to be dumped in close proximity to dwellings is not conducive to health or to maintaining the residents near those places in a sympathetic mood towards those who innocently incur their displeasure by disposing of the refuse in this manner. It is some satisfaction to know that at last a site has been secured as a tipping place near the old Globe Pit. This is far enough away from any dwelling-places and will, we trust, not be a source of annoyance to anyone. This has made it possible to stop tipping on the site at the top of Queen Street, which has for a long time been the cause of so many complaints.

Housing Conditions.

Number of dwelling houses in the district	...	...	4833
„ working class dwellings	...	...	4522
„ „ „ erected during the year	...	...	5
Estimated population	...	...	26380

The question of housing the people is still by far the greatest problem which remains unsolved in your district. Year by year the scarcity of housing accommodation is becoming more pronounced. This is not to be wondered at when the following facts are taken into consideration :—

During the eight years preceeding 1914 an average of 115 houses were put up by private enterprise in the district and yet in spite of that fact housing accommodation was at the end of that period anything but ample. Since then things have gone from bad to worse until to-day the consequences of the lack of houses are very deplorable.

From 1914 to 1925 (inclusive), a period of eleven years, only 205 houses have been erected. Out of this number the Council erected 125, leaving only 80, or an average of about 7 per annum, provided by private enterprise. It does not require a very keen sense of imagination to visualize the sad consequences, in an increasing population, of such a very low rate of house production. It need hardly be said that the 125 houses provided by the Council has in a small measure contributed towards rendering some relief of overcrowding but the effect is almost imperceptible although a considerable number of these houses are occupied by more than one family.

The evils arising from the lack of proper housing accommodation are :

1. Overcrowding.
2. Tent and van dwellings.
3. Cellar dwellings.
4. Back to back houses.
5. Continued use of old and insanitary houses which should have been demolished.

Tent and Van Dwellings.—The number of this kind of so called dwellings have enormously increased during recent years and are still being added to. The structures are almost without exception crudely constructed. No water supply or sanitary arrangements being provided. It has already

been pointed out in previous reports that the dwellers in these ramshackle places are not of the "gipsy" type but are people who have been accustomed to living in houses and have been driven to seek this primitive mode of living through possibly unavoidable circumstances as far as they are concerned.

Old and Insanitary Houses.—During the year 809 dwellings were inspected under Section 17 (1) of the Housing and Town Planning Act. Out of this number 194 were deemed to be unfit for human habitation. The greater portion of those are irreparable and, if alternative accommodation could be provided, are only fit for demolition. Unfortunately, until such accommodation is provided, the people must be allowed to remain in those undesirable places.

Overcrowding.—A house to house inspection of the district is now being carried out and the results, as far as the inspection has gone, as to overcrowding may be seen by a glance at the appended table. It is unfortunately true that the poorer the locality the greater the overcrowding. Families of mixed sexes are huddled together in such numbers and under such adverse circumstances as to tend to the lowering of the physical and moral well being of the occupants.

Cellar Dwellings.—There are in this district about 60 of this very undesirable class of habitation, many of them occupied by large families whose sleeping accommodation is of such a kind as to render them totally unfit for habitation. The walls in most cases being damp and sodden and light and ventilation being only conspicuous by their absence. It is true that a number of these places have in past years been abolished but it is earnestly to be desired that the day is not far distant when this kind of abode will be only matters of past history.

Back-to-back Dwellings.—In the older portions of the town there are a number of this class of dwelling. In most of the cases this is the result of closing up the communication doors between the front and back portions of ordinary four roomed houses, thus converting what was already quite small enough as a single tenement into two separate tenements of two rooms each. The consequence being that ventilation is impeded and the occupants of the front portions of the house being deprived of the use of the sanitary arrangements and are forced to deposit much offensive matter in the street channel which often causes very offensive nuisances. These places could soon be dealt with if alternative accommodation could be provided.

I note with great satisfaction that the Minister of Health has given specific approval for the erection of 50 houses in this area under the Housing Act, 1924, and also provisional approval for a further 50 houses under the same Act.

Sanction for 50 houses to be erected by the efforts of private enterprise has also been received.

These houses when erected will do some little towards remedying the housing difficulties of the Urban Area. Much more in this direction remains to be done and I trust no effort will be spared in your endeavours to obtain ample houses for the needs of your district.

Table shewing Accommodation in Houses Inspected during 1925.

Total number of Houses Inspected, 809. Out of this number 412 were found to be occupied by more than 2 persons per room, including the living-rooms, as will be seen by an examination of the appended Table.

Number of Living and Sleeping Rooms.	NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS.										Total Number of Rooms.	Total Number of Occupants	Total Number of Houses.
	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons	9 Persons	10 Persons	11 Persons	12 Persons	13 Persons	14 Persons	
2	10	13	10	7	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	46
3	—	10	7	3	7	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	185
4	—	—	41	52	48	25	8	9	2	2	—	—	1261
5	—	—	—	28	24	8	10	7	4	2	—	1	642
6	—	—	—	—	20	9	9	—	2	3	—	—	351
7	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	1	3	—	—	139
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	41
9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	23
TOTAL											1762	2859	412

House to House Inspection, 1924 and 1925.

Number of Houses Inspected, 2071. Out of this number 1063, or more than 50%, were found to be occupied by more than two persons per room, including the living-rooms.

Number of Living and Sleeping Rooms.	NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS.										Total Number of Rooms.	Total Number of Occupants.	Total Number of Houses.
	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons	9 Persons	10 Persons	11 Persons	12 Persons	13 Persons	14 Persons	18 Persons
1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
2	22	35	21	16	7	4	1	—	—	—	—	497	9
3	—	25	20	18	20	7	3	3	1	—	—	572	106
4	—	—	125	154	103	57	31	25	9	10	1	3487	97
5	—	—	—	69	57	29	21	17	7	2	—	1519	515
6	—	—	—	—	39	20	19	8	6	7	—	834	203
7	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	10	3	7	—	363	99
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	41	35
9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	23	4
											18		2
Total											4469	7345	1063

Housing Conditions.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Number of Dwelling-houses in the District - - -	4738	4819	4827	4828	4833
Number of Working-class Dwellings in the District - - -	4436	4517	4525	4526	4531
Number of Working-class Dwellings erected during the year -	56	81	8	1	5
Estimated Population - - -	25650	26070	26230	26380	26380

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of houses erected during the year—

(a) Total including numbers given separately under (b)	...	5
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—		
1. By the Local Authority	..	Nil
2. By other bodies or persons	..	2

Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection—

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	}	809
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ...		
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...		194
(d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		197

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	26
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Action under Statutory Powers—

(a) Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations of powers of intention to close	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	344
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
	(a) By owners	105
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

1.	Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders ...	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made ...	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	Nil
5.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ...	Nil

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Registered Buildings and Trades.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Common Lodging-houses -	6	5	5	4	3
Slaughter-houses -	2	3	3	3	3
Cowsheds and Dairies -	44	42	44	56	56
Milkshops -	21	19	17	12	10
Bakehouses -	23	25	25	26	26
Workshops -	—	—	31	30	30

Common Lodging-Houses.—Previous to 1914 considerable trouble was experienced with these places. At that time there were eight of them in the district, each more or less overcrowded, but since then the patrons mysteriously vanished and as a consequence there are only three sparsely patronised lodging-houses in the area. These are frequently inspected and attention called to any defects that may exist.

Slaughter-Houses.—There are two registered slaughter-houses and one licensed slaughter-house in the district. One of the registered slaughter-houses is not in use. The one in use is owned by the Public Buildings Co., and is used by a number of the butchers of the town. The licensed slaughter-house is situated at Highfield, Nantylwch. These places are continuously being inspected and every possible attention is given to the cleanliness necessary in such places. They are amply provided with water supply.

Bakehouses.—There are 26 registered bakehouses in the district, each of which is inspected periodically. No serious cause of complaint has been discovered. Minor defects have been at once attended to on the occupiers' attention being called to them. Fortunately we have no underground bakeries in the area.

Workshops.—No cause for official action has been found in any of the 30 workshops in the district. Regular visits are being paid to these places.

Meat Inspection.—It is fortunate that there are only two slaughter-houses in the district which are in active use. It is therefore possible to pay a greater amount of attention to the slaughtering of animals than would be possible if every butcher had his own slaughter-house. A great deal of the time of your Inspectors is being devoted to the examination of animals before and after slaughter. The system of marking meat provided for under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, has not been adopted in your district. All condemned meat and other food are destroyed by incineration at your Gas Works. We are fortunate in not having any meat stalls in the district. The shops, stores, and vehicles in which meat is sold or conveyed are kept under observation that the provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations Act, 1924, are being observed. Unfortunately we have no municipal slaughter-house.

Private Slaughter-Houses.

	In 1920	In January, 1925	In December, 1925
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	Nil	1	1
	—	—	—
Total	2	3	3
	—	—	—

Note.—One registered slaughter-house has had but very little use for some years.

During the year the following articles of food were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption and were therefore condemned and destroyed.

2862 lbs. of beef.	534 lbs. of mutton.
18 lbs. corned beef.	3 crates yf vegetables.
	4 stone of fish.

Milk Supply.—There is an adequate supply of milk in the district. There are 56 registered cowsheds and dairies in the district. These are situated in the rural portions of the area. They are regularly inspected and the importance of securing a clean milk supply is brought to the notice of those in charge. Much improvement has been carried out during recent years but more remains to be done. There are 12 milkshops on the register each place being kept under observation. No serious cause of complaint has been discovered.

No case of tuberculous milk or cattle has come under observation.

No licenses have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations classified as in the fourth schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

There has been no revocation or refusal of the registration of retailers or licenses for graded milk.

All bacteriological examinations and the taking of samples of milk are undertaken by the County Council Authorities.

Sanitary Administration, 1921 - 1925.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Pail closets converted into water-closets ...	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	24	30
New stone or brick closets erected ...	30	27	24	12	125	218
New stoneware housedrains laid ...	44	23	26	11	26	130
Foul housedrains and closets cleansed and repaired ...	164	141	118	125	211	759
Various nuisances abated ...	152	120	140	120	250	782
New houses certified for occupation ...	56	81	8	1	5	151
Houses inspected under section 17 (1) of the Housing and Town Planning Act ...	248	260	280	1262	809	2859
Houses unfit for occupation ...	238	252	260	160	194	—
Representations made with a view to closing order being made ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Closing orders made ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
House put in order without closing order ...	8	25	21	16	19	89
Informal notices served ...	310	290	180	380	274	1434
Statutory notice served ...	7	5	6	Nil	204	222
Total notice served ...	317	295	186	380	478	1656
New stoneware gully traps fixed ...	...	...	...	30	104	134
Three gallon flush tank and water supply to water-closets provided ...	56	81	33	12	59	241
Other inspections made--						
Common lodging houses ...	250	235	240	234	227	1186
Slaughter houses ...	181	140	150	217	264	952
Housedrains and closets ...	730	650	540	631	596	3147
Structural defects ...	342	260	270	219	278	1369
Cowsheds and dairies ...	72	48	44	79	50	293
Various other inspections ...	158	184	176	172	288	978
Total number of inspections ...	1981	1777	1700	2814	2512	10784

Sanitary Administration.

Pail and privy closets converted into waterclosets	...	...	24
Waterclosets provided—			
New stone or brick closets erected	...	67	
Existing closets (on old culverts, etc.) converted to waterclosets	...	58	
		—	125
New stoneware housedrains provided and housedrains relaid	...		26
Foul housedrains and closets cleansed and repaired	...		211
New stoneware gully traps fixed	...		104
Housedrains connected to new sewers	...		242
Various nuisances abated	...		250
Three gallon flush tanks and water supply to waterclosets provided			59
General repairs to houses carried out	...		121
Houses inspected under section 17 (1) of the Housing and Town Planning Act	...		809
Houses found unfit for occupation	..		194
Representations made with a view to closing orders being made	...		Nil
Closing orders made	...		Nil
Houses put in order without a closing order	...		26
Informal notices served	...		274
Statutory notices served	...		204

Your senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Llew Howells, was appointed to that position in 1902 and previous to that acted as assistant to the Surveyor (who was also the Sanitary Inspector) for nine years. He is also the Scavenging Superintendent and Meat and other Foods Inspector. Mr. C. G. Watkins, your second Sanitary Inspector, was appointed in 1924 and is chiefly engaged in house to house inspections and the compiling of the records of such inspections. Both Inspectors hold the certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute. I cannot speak too highly of the great services rendered by Mr. Llew. Howells and his assistant Mr. C. G. Watkins in the administration of the sanitary department of your area.

Adoptive Acts in force in the District.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Parts 3 and 4.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Private Street Works, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907—Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 32, comprised in part 2 of the Act. Sections 34 to 50 comprised in parts 3 and 4 of the Act.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Infectious Diseases Act (Notification) 1889.

Bye-Laws.

The bye-laws in force in the district were framed so far back as 1907 and are therefore sadly out of date and need revision. Bye-laws were made and allowed by the Local Government Board on 30th September, 1901, on the following subjects:—Cleansing of footways, nuisances, removal of offensive and noxious matter, common lodging-houses, new streets and buildings, slaughter-houses, tents, vans and sheds, and offensive trades. Dairies, cowsheds, and milk shops on the 25th July, 1899. Houses let-in-lodgings on 30th November, 1901.

I am pleased to record that new bye-laws with regard to new streets and buildings were approved by the Minister of Health on the 14th August, 1925, and are now in operation in this area. This is a step in the right direction and I trust that in process of time your remaining bye-laws will be overhauled and brought up-to-date.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

EDWIN T. H. DAVIES,

M.D., M.S. (LOND)., F.R.C.S. (ENG).

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Under 1 Year.	1 - 2	2 - 3	4 - 3	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65 and Over.	Totals at all Ages.
Pneumonia	2	7	2	4	7	3	5	3	1	7	41
Puerperal Fever...	3	...	...	3
Ophthalmia Neon.	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Diphtheria	1	1	2	...	11	2	3	1	1	...	22
Scarlet Fever	1	2	5	1	8	2	4	1	..	...	24
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2	6	9	20	9	10	58
Non-Pulmonary ...	3	1	...	...	1	6	8	7	2	3	2	33
	3	11	10	10	8	34	21	29	30.	14	19	189

**Vital Statistics of whole District,
1921 - 1925.**

NAME OF DISTRICT --- TREDEGAR.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Nett Deaths belonging to District.			
		Num- ber.	Rate.	Under 1 Year.		At all Ages,	
				Num- ber.	Rate 1,000 nett Births	Num- ber.	Rate.
1921	25,650	773	30'1	80	103'49	310	12'08
1922	26,070	681	26'12	59	86'64	303	11'62
1923	26,230	675	25'77	48	70'11	282	10'75
1924	26,380	626	23'73	46	73'4	267	10'12
1925	26,380	625	23'69	49	80'0	291	11'03

**Cause of, and Ages at Death
during 1925.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.			M.	F
ALL CAUSES	...	...	162	129
Measles	...	...	7	3
Whooping cough	...	...	..	5
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...
Influenza	...	...	1	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	12	7
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	4	3
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	12	14
Rheumatic fever	...	...	1	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage..	...	...	13	8
Heart disease	...	...	14	14
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	2	..
Bronchitis	...	...	16	15
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	13	14
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	3	...
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	4	...
Appendicitis and typhlitis	..	..	2	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	3	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	11	6
Suicide	...	...	2	1
Other deaths from violence	...	...	14	4
Other defined diseases	...	...	27	30
Death of Infants under 1 year	Total	...	24	25
	Illegitimate	...	...	1
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	..	328	297
Legitimate	..	...	318	292
Illegitimate	...	..	10	5
POPULATION	...	...	26380	

Infant Mortality.

1925. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	3	3
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	1	2
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	9	3	2	...	14	1	2	...	...	17
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus										
Atelectasis ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	2	9
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	3	7
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	1	1	...	2	1	1	...	..	4
Other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9	4	4	...	17	7	7	8	11	50

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	1	...	..	2	...	...	...	1
1	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
5	4	...	3	3	...	...	2	...
10	2	3	4	6	1	..	...	..
15	4	5	3	2	..	..	2	2
20	2	7	...	...	1	2	...	...
25	4	6	..	2	1	2	...	...
35	8	2	3	...	3	...	...	...
45	3	...	2	...	3	...	...	...
55	3	...	1	1	3	...	...	...
65 and upwards	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ..	35	23	17	16	12	5	4	3

